AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire, ~~characterized in that when~~ in which an end portion of a carcass ply ~~is wound~~ extends around a ring-shaped bead core and a stiffener is ~~arranged~~ disposed on an outer peripheral side of a turnup portion of the carcass ply ~~to shape a green tire~~, comprising:

folding a carcass material ~~is previously folded~~ at both ~~axially~~ axial end portions in a direction opposite to each other to form a pair of hook-shaped wrap portions, and ~~shaped~~ shaping the carcass material into a cylinder to form a carcass band[[, and]];

setting a pair of bead cores each attached [[with]] to a stiffener ~~are set to insides of both resulting~~ inside respective ones of said hook-shaped wrap portions ~~of the carcass band at~~ in a fall-down posture of the stiffener, ~~and thereafter~~ the stiffener ~~of the fall-down posture is~~ thereafter being stood up on an outer peripheral side of the respective wrap portion[[,]]; and

joining a belt and a tread ~~are piled~~ on an outer peripheral side of the carcass band.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the setting of the bead ~~core to the inside of the wrap portion~~ cores, ~~a pair of~~ the bead cores [[each]] are supported by a bead setter [[are]] and moved to given positions in an axial direction between both wrap portions of the carcass band, [[and]] the wrap ~~portion is~~ portions are subjected to an elastically enlarging deformation by moving the bead setter outward in the axial direction, and subsequently the bead setter is retracted outward in a radial direction.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stiffener ~~previously attached to the bead core~~ is fallen down at a position corresponding to a notch formed in the stiffener.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the stiffener is rendered into [[a]] the fall-down posture after the bead ~~core is~~ cores are supported by the bead setter.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bead cores are locked, and wherein the stiffener is fallen down after the bead ~~core is~~ cores are locked and before the bead setter is retracted outward in the radial direction.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the stiffener is fallen down before the ~~bead core is~~ bead cores are supported by the bead setter.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~falling deformation of the~~ stiffener ~~is carried out under an attachment of~~ comprises a support tongue-shaped portion ~~of the stiffener~~ protruding ~~from a rotating fulcrum of the stiffener toward a forward side~~ in a falling direction of the stiffener, and wherein the support tongue-shaped portion is attached to [[onto]] a surface of the bead core, the support tongue-shaped portion preventing an unexpected separation of the stiffener from the respective bead core.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising locking the bead cores and shaping the carcass band, and wherein the stiffener is stood up after the bead setter is retracted outward in the radial direction with the locking of the bead [[core]] cores and before the carcass band is subjected to [[a]] said shaping.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising locking the bead cores and shaping an axially central portion of the carcass band, and wherein the stiffener is stood up in an expansion deformation of [[an]] the axially central portion of the carcass band through the shaping thereof after the bead core is locked.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~when the bead core is set into an inside of the wrap portion,~~ the bead ~~core is~~ cores are locked at a state ~~of elastically enlarge deforming~~ in which the wrap portions are elastically enlarged, ~~portion by the bead setter supported with the bead core~~ and thereafter the bead setter is retracted outward in the radial direction.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bead setter is moved inward in the radial direction prior to the enlarging deformation of the wrap portion.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein operations ranging from the setting of the bead [[core]] cores to the joining of the belt and the tread to the carcass band are carried out on one shaping drum.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein after the setting of the bead [[core]] cores is completed, the carcass band is transferred to ~~another~~ a shaping drum to conduct the joining of the belt and the tread to the carcass band.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the carcass band is transferred to ~~another~~ a shaping drum together with the bead setter before the setting of the bead core is completed and thereafter the bead core is set to conduct the joining of the belt and the tread to the carcass band.